



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS
Under Secretary
for Policy

812-0000-0001
1200 New Jersey Ave. S E
Washington DC 20590

December 3, 2008

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you for your letter of November 13, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

DIANA DeGETTE
1ST DISTRICT, COLORADO

2421 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4431
FAX (202) 225-5857

DISTRICT OFFICE:
600 GRANT STREET, SUITE 202
DENVER, CO 80203
(303) 844-4988
FAX (303) 844-4996

E-mail: degette@mail.house.gov

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

November 13, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Attn: Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Secretary Peters:

I am writing in support of American Airlines' application for antitrust immunity for its One World International aviation alliance with its partners British Airways, Finnair, Iberia and Royal Jordanian Airlines. One World would be the third immunized alliance joining SkyTeam (Delta, Northwest, Air France and KLM) and the Star Alliance (United, USAirways, Continental, Lufthansa, Singapore and ANA). Immunity would mean the five One World airlines will continue to operate as separate legal entities – with their own fleets, employees and brands – but would be able cooperate more closely in the aviation marketplace, providing the citizens of Colorado with more domestic choices and better international connections, enhanced frequent flyer programs, and more competition.

In today's global economy, the long-term success of an air carrier is at least partially dependent upon strong relationships, a global reach, and the ability to seamlessly coordinate, schedule and market a global network – all which are attainable when airlines in an alliance are able to cooperate more closely.

I urge you to promptly review and approve the American Airlines application for antitrust immunity to bring more competition to the aviation marketplace.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress